

Message Text

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TO AMEMBASSY BISSAU

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 222956

FOLLOWING REPEAT LISBON 6071 ACTION SECSTATE INFO ADDIS ABABA
LILONGWE CONAKRY DAKAR DAR ES SALAAM KINSHASA MAPUTO LUSAKA
PRETORIA USUN DIA CINCLANT USCINCEUR SEP 4.

QUOTE: C O N F I D E N T I A L LISBON 6071

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, PO, AG

SUBJECT: GOP - ANGOLAN RELATIONS

SUMMARY: AT THE CONCLUSION OF A CONVERSATION ON ECONOMIC
MATTERS, PRIME MINISTER SOARES ASKED ME TO CONVEY TO USG
THE RESULTS OF SOCIALIST PARTY PRESIDENT MACEDO'S MISSION TO
ANGOLA. THE RPA DESIRED TO REOPEN RELATIONS WITH THE GOP,
AND TO BROADEN ITS LINKS WITH EUROPE. SOARES WOULD LIKE AN
EXCHANGE OF VIEWS WITH US ON STRATEGY TOWARD ANGOLA. END SUMMARY.

1. IN CONVERSATION SEPTEMBER 3, SOARES TOLD ME THAT
THE MISSION TO ANGOLA LEAD BY SOCIALIST PARTY
PRESIDENT ANTONIO MACEDO HAD EXCEEDED EXPECTATIONS. THE
GROUP HAD GONE PREPARED TO PROPOSE AN EXCHANGE OF CONSULS
GENERAL, TO BE FOLLOWED BY A MEETING OF FOREIGN MINISTERS
AND SUBSEQUENTLY BY A MEETING BETWEEN NETO AND SOARES.

2. THE ANGOLANS RESPONDED BY PROPOSING THE IMMEDIATE
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REESTABLISHMENT OF DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS. THROUGHOUT THE

TALKS THE ANGOLANS DEMONSTRATED A STRONG DESIRE TO IMPROVE RELATIONS WITH PORTUGAL. THEY EVEN TALKED OF A PRIVILEGED RELATIONSHIP. THEY APPARENTLY WERE IN NEED OF TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE AND WERE ANTICIPATING THE RETURN OF PORTUGUESE TECHNICIANS. THE ANGOLANS ALSO MADE THE POINT THAT PORTUGAL COULD HELP THEM ESTABLISH LINKS WITH EUROPE. ACCORDING TO SOARES, THEY EVEN DISCUSSED EVENTUALLY "ESTABLISHING CONTACTS THAT WOULD FACILITATE THEIR REENTRY INTO THE UN."

3. SOARES SAID THE ANGOLANS STRESSED TO THE PORTUGUESE DELEGATION THAT THEY WERE NOT LACKEYS OF RUSSIA. THEY FELT THEY HAD BEEN PUSHED INTO THE ARMS OF THE SOVIETS, BUT NOW WISHED TO DEVELOP A MORE INDEPENDENT POSITION. SOARES SAID THE GOP DELEGATION HAD MADE IT CLEAR TO THE ANGOLANS THAT THEY SHOULD DEAL WITH THE SOCIALIST GOVERNMENT IN POWER AND NOT THROUGH THE PCP. THE ANGOLANS HAD EVEN APPEARED RECEPTIVE TO THIS CHANGE.

4. SOARES SAID THE DELEGATION HAD THE IMPRESSION CONDITIONS HAD IMPROVED IN ANGOLA. STORES WERE BETTER STOCKED AND PEOPLE SEEMED GENERALLY TO HAVE MORE MONEY. WHEN THEY QUESTIONED ANGOLANS ON THIS THE MOST FREQUENT REPLY WAS THAT THEY WERE RECEIVING MONEY FROM THE AMERICANS FOR PETROLEUM SALES. VERY LITTLE CREDIT WAS GIVEN SOVIET AID. THE DELEGATION ALSO HAD THE FEELING THAT THE GOVERNMENT WAS ON MORE SOLID GROUND. INTERNAL FIGHTING HAD SUBSIDED SOMEWHAT, AND NETO SEEMED TO BE GAINING THE UPPER HAND OVER ALVES.

5. SOARES SAID THERE WERE STILL MANY CONTENTIOUS ISSUES BETWEEN THE GOP AND THE RPA, SUCH AS THE DETENTION OF PORTUGUESE CITIZENS AND THE CONFISCATION OF PORTUGUESE PROPERTY. NEVERTHELESS, HE IS GREATLY ENCOURAGED BY NETO'S REACTION. ANGOLA WAS STILL A BONE IN HIS THROAT; HE SAID: "WE DEFEATED THE COMMUNISTS HERE BUT WE LOST TO THEM ANGOLA." IN THIS CONNECTION HE THOUGHT IT WOULD BE VALUABLE TO HAVE EXCHANGES WITH US ON A STRATEGY DESIGNED TO REDUCE SOVIET INFLUENCE IN ANGOLA.

6. I WOULD APPRECIATE AN APPROPRIATE RESPONSE TO THE ABOVE
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WHICH I COULD CONVEY TO SOARES. CARLUCCI
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